Contemplationes MUNDI, 4

ET

IMMORTALITATIS.

CONTEMPLATIONS

OFTHE

WORLD

AND OF

OXFORD

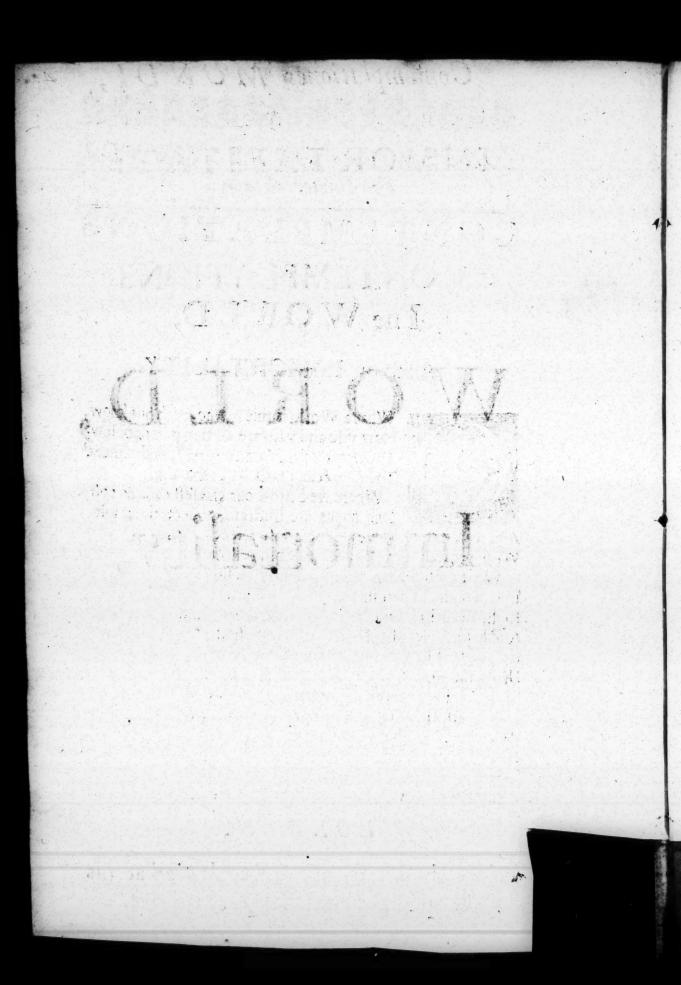
Immortality.

O Guras Hominum! O quantum est in rebus inane!

Perf. Sat. I.

LONDON,

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CONTEMPLATIONES MUNDI,

CONTEMPLATIONS

OF

The WORLD,

And of IMMORTALITY.



What a World is this! who doth not know, How vile and vain are all things here below? And what doth Promise fairely, and pretend To satisfaction, fails Us in the End.

Where we bestow our chiefest care & cost, Our hopes are frustrate, expectations lost;

And commonly what we do most affect, With greatest Grief upon us doth reslect.

What doth a Man more ardently defire, In's Youth, Then that he may a Wife acquire; Rich, Beautiful, and Young, of Vertuous mind, And happy He, that such a One doth find. Of all the blessings that on Earth befall She is the greatest and if God withall Doth Children give, that towardly do prove, This fruitfull Vine, these Olive-Branches love, With joy will cherish; Nature, Reason too, Tell him, for them he cannot too much do.

But if his Wife grow froward, twill offend
If he ben't wife, or she her manners mend;
If he be jealous, and her faith suspect,
(Which God defend) This turns t'a source neglest.

Or if his Children shall ill courses take,
This will torment, and make his heart-strings ake?

Crosses more outward, he may better bear; But these will inwardly his bowels tear. Children are certain Cares and charges to us; Uncertain Comforts, and too oft undoe us.

What then? Live singly, so thou mayst be free, But more or less Thou then a Man must be; If thou live chastly: 'Tis a Gift so rare, Unlesse thou hast it, thou thy Vow maist spare. Th'art mov'd to marry, that thou mayst survive In spight of Death, in th' Issue lest alive.

Supposing all things, well then; Hast thou got A fair Estate, by Industry, or lot,
Or by descent? Oh happy mayst thou be!
If all be sound, and ther's no guist in thee,
Or thine Estate inherent; For if so,
It like a Canker frets, away 'twill go.
The Wit of Man can hardly long secure,
What Gods impartial Justice finds impure.

But doth it hold, and the third Heir succeed,
Thy Grand-child great and hopefull? O take heed
To's Education! lest from thence may spring
Some Vice, that to Consusion all may bring.
Youth would be free and frollick. Do'st retain
Him yet at home? Perhaps an idle train
Of Tenants, Neighbours, Servants, or who not,
Draw their young Master to affect the Pot;
Or what's the Country gallantry. The Mother
May him supply, and such Debauchments smother.
Thus is his Youth corrupted? This sou'r taste,
Th' ill seasoned Vessel will retain till last.

Or is he wean'd from home, and so sent out,
To th' University? Then look about.
Hath he a carefull Tutor? Doth he fix
Unto his Study closely, or play tricks?
If so? His early Hopes may soon be cropt,
And this fair Branch from off thy Tree be lopt.

But comes he fairly off, and doth proceed Unto some Inne of Court, in hope to speed; And get those golden Apples growing there, Which Dragons keep, and sew away do beare;

Temptations

Temptations there are rife, which way he will,
He may find means, his lutts how to fulfill,
To which his Youth inclines. If's pleasure grow,
'Mongst Wine or Women? There Companions flow
To please his humour, which if he pursue,
Hee his intemperance too late may rue.

Yet hold you me; He may not be restrain'd Ther's honour and advancement, to be gain'd Among'st those Hero's; He may be a Prince, As was 'twice samous De L' Amour; and since He that entitled was to all the Grange, With equipage so Prince-like, courtly, strange, That it did exercise Mercurius, Quill, Which with such admiration did us fill, Fame slew ore Mountains with it into Wales, And did amaze 'em there with such strange Tales As since their King Cadwallader did raign, They never heard; or when they shall again Merlin hath not foretold, though some of late, New Princes can, from his old Sawes create.

But on these objects let us only glance,
To be a Prince, it is not each Mans chance.
Would thy Gallanto, (in's affections free,)
Unto some Lady fain a servant be?
Take heed he be not caught: But if you find
He do'st in due respect to Woman-kind?
To visit Ladies, so they vertuous be,
On fair accounts, may tolerated be.
Youth should be wary though, Sirenian Charms
Tickle to Death, 'ere they perceive their harms.

For a divertisement, unto a play,

Tis much in use, to droll the time away.

To see, be seen; And talk when we are gone
How well the Scenes were fitted; What's well done,
What not, how here appear'd some Art,
How well brave Roxelina plaid her part.
With this, and that: To censure, or to praise
How here the Poet did deserve the Baies,
But there he fail'd. O this is rarely fine,
At such discourse Who would not gladly dine?

But such ill consequences of attend
These Courses, they bring forrow in the end.
Who idely lives is Subject unto all
Assaults and Mischiefs, that may him befall.
If 'twere but losse of time; ther's reason why
The Studious Soul should loose companions sty
That tempt and taint; Who would no evill doe,

And he that doth his better part regard

O're all his Senses must keep watch and ward

Here lies the Danger then. Thy heir is known

Much Money, Credit, and effate to own.

This is a Lure that from all Quarters draws

The Birds of prey, to feize him in their Clawes

Hectors and Gamesters haunt him with design,

To dig into him, and exhault his Mine.

And if they drill him on to game and play,

He with the desperate Dye throwes all away.

And what his Ancestors in many Yeers

Have got, He in one night asunder tears.

He's Guld and cheated, and away must trot,

Or snap't by Catch-poles, in a prison rot.

And possibly, 'ere he goes off the Stage

He to undoing doth his Friends engage.

And thus thy Heir, which should thy house support

Doth pull it down, and leave you A-la-more.

But if he scape these snares, and comes to be,
An Utter-Barrister; Yet don't we see
The Gown and Title don't a Lawyer make,
If th' Head-piece be not right The back will ake,
That wears that weighty Robe. He needs a Stock
Of Parts and Arts. You know of every Block.
Mercury is not fram'd, nor wisdome found
In bodies that with folly do abound.

Yet if he grow in practice, and so be Crouded with Clients, and the Golden Fee Flows in; Let him beware he don't o're-Araine, His Conscience then, to multiply his gain, Th' allurement's great, and so the Danger's more, To gain the World, and loose his Soul therefore,

Yet there's a way to prosper, fair and long By helping such to right, as suffer wrong. Pleading the Widdowes and the O rphans cause Freeing the Innocent out of the Pawes Of Fierce Oppressors. Thus hee'se honour doe, Unto himself, and his profession too.

The Coife and Scarlet Robes do then adorne. When they by persons of true Worth are worne. Judges, as mortali Gods support the State, if they fear God, and coveton nesse hate. For when Correction rots, and all falls down,

Integrity will flourish with renown.

But, wher's this Man of Men? Oh i'st not sed

Astrea's left us, and to heavens fled?

That Justice ately lean'd of t'other side,

Threw by her Scales, Or else them misimploid,

And Her most sacred Sword, e'rst us'd to smite

The Rebell down, did set him bolt up ight,

And feld the Loyal Innocent? Who not?

Oh let these horrid Tragedies nere blot,

The Laws, or their professors rightly form'd:

'Twas high Injustice, when the Throne was storm'd.

All truth and right were ravish'd Arms bore sway,

May we n'er see again so sad a day.

Pardon a moy. Thon now a way hast found To place thy Tounker out on surer ground Bind him Apprentice. Let him crosse the Main, View Forreign parts; Returning home again He as a Merchant, shall profoundly dive, Into a close mysterious Crast, and thrive, That he an Aldermans Estate, may gain, Ride the trapt Horse, Deckt with a golden Chain, Wear Scarlet, and fine Linnen, every day, Fare most deliciously, and bear some sway. Be courted both in City and in Town, And honour'd as a Lord of high renown.

Oh this is brave indeed! Who would not be, Bound for a time, that he might thus be free? And fortunate? Yea, venture Life, what not? That on so fair a ground, might fall his lot.

Yet stay fond Fool, and thou mayst soon descry This splendid show, hath much of Pageantry. And as in Lotteries the Blanks abound, Whereto the Trumpets never do resound: But Prizes few, which they do so proclaim, That it draws on Adventurers amain: So here; Thou feest a few Men richly ride, But not how many fail and flip afide As quite undone; Nay, we sometimes do know These men dismounted too, and fall full low: So many wayes there be by Sea and Land, To ruine such, as on Adventures stand.

And what greives most, Affliction makes those fly, Who courted them in their prosperity; Which this old Observation true doth prove,

Some do mens Fortunes, more than Persons love. But if they thrive, and to their Callings keep,

See how they cark and care, and hardly fleep, For fear of losing what they so have got. And well it is, if no misdealing blot Their Conscience, since their trade (for lucres sake) Of good and evil Arts, doth much partake. And then their gain is losse. The Heir all spends

In Luxury and Riot; So it ends.

If so? A Souldier let him be, and then Hee'le hew his fortunes out of Rocks and Men, As hard as they. We see how they have thriven, And all with huge applause before 'em driven. And who would not a great Commander be? Souldiers of Fortune gallant are and free, Honors and Empires they obtain, and by The Sword they Rule and Reign; Who'l this deny?

Yet main't I ask this question? Is't a Trade, That God or Nature uncorrupt, ere made? Or cam't from Cain and Nimrod? And we say, The worst of Creatures, are the Beasts of Prey; That feed on Blood and Slaughter: Be he made

A Butcher rather, than of such a trade.

And though of late, by Providence and Pluz.

Some so prevail'd, they brought the Owners under

And then took all for theirs. Yet I want light,

How such an Usurpation makes a right.

I grant, to fight in our own just defence, Or where the War is not on vain pretence, But just and needfull; under due Command We orderly unto our Arms may stand.

But much I fear, this is not alwayes weigh'd,
And therefore, whatfoe're we find is faid
Of fome mens grand atchievements, and their story
Is blazon'd out with attributes of glory:
Yet when (poor Mortals) they from hence are hurl'd,
Truth tels Us, They were Troubless of the World.

And that Commander, who his charge refign'd To Charles the fifth, did well informe his mind, How needfull 'twas, He should some distance have, 'Twixt that Imployment, and his look'd for Grave.

For furely though Ambition bears'em high, Th'Account is fad, when fuch Men come to Dye; Their End approching, In another Sence Things then appear; When once the Conscience Is wakned, and affrighted with the Guilt Of all the Blood, which they have loosly spilt, Now to be reckon'd for: When once grim Death The King of Terrors, shortens their weak breath, Though formerly these Men did little fear, Yet now, a wounded Spirit, who can bear?

And therefore I those mad-men think, or fools, That rashly meddle with such sharp edg'd-Tools At all adventures, and do ne're consult With Grotius, or consider the Result.

There hardly can be any true content in an Imployment that's not innocent, Or justly mannag'd. Let me never thong Into a Trade that thrives by doing wrong: Let me alwayes my mind with Patience arm, And rather Suffer, than be doing harm.

What then? Let Him go study Physick, and Rack all his brains, to search, and understand

What Solomon the wifest King er'e wrote, Or utter'd; Or by others hath been sought, In Natures closest Entrailes: This will do it, 'Ts natural, his Genius leads him to it; The Knowledge is delightful, who do not learn The strange effects of causes to discern, And try the hidden Vertue that remains, In all that this vast Universe contains.

This is a noble Science, deep as high,
And when he comes this Knowledge to apply,
To practife; he is fee'd, and honour'd then,
As the Preserver of decaying Men.
Sith skin for skin, and whatsoe're men have,
They'l part with, to preserve em from the Grave;
So sweet is Life to some, that pine and cry
With pain, and yet unwilling are to dy.

With pain, and yet unwilling are to dy.

And yet admitting this for truth, we may

Consider what Hipocrates did say,
The Art is long to learn, Mans Life is short,
Th'Experience dangerous, not made in sport.
And hence it follows, that for all their skill,
In stead of Curing, they sometimes do kill:
So dark diseases are! The Causes they
Do not discern, and so mistake their way
Of helping Nature, hastning to their end
Those Patients, whom to save they did pretend.
Which though the Laws don't punish, surely they
For rash mistakes, should absolution pray:
How can Religio Medici dispence
With things that come so near the Conscience?

And whereas all their Art should mainly bend With ease of pain, our life how to extend; They often in the main do erre, whilst they With strong Exotick-med'cines force away A pungent sickness; so that now by this, The Constitution of the Body is Alter'd and weakn'd, and for present ease, We're cast into a contrary disease, Which shortens life; and thus between Extreams We perish by th'unhappy use of Means;

Which (with some other reasons) often make Some shun their very Physick for healths sake.

And as 'tis said, Apollo could not cure
Himself with all his Art; so this is sure,
Physicians also Die, as soon as any
That freely live, which terrifies the many;
And when they see, an Ague doth 'em pose,
They doubt, they cannot ward them from Death's blows:
If Peper-posset and good Candles can-

Not do the Work? Oh then, God help the Man!

Befides, if you consider all the prancks
Acted by Empericks and Mountebancks,
On Patients over-credulous; You'd' muse
How they the Vulgar can so much abuse:
But her's the Knack A cheap and speedy Cure,
Is what the People pray, and they assure.
And if it take, Quacks have their thanks and more.
Though learn'd Physicians did the work before:
Opinion so from Truth and Merit swerves,
It may discourage him that best deserves.

Now fince Physicians of the Body fare
So ill sometimes; let's of the Soul take Care:
And let thy Heir Contemplate night and day,
How he to Heaven, through the Milkey-way
Of Light may safely walk, and others lead
Instructed rightly in those Paths to tread;
Faith and Good Works, by grace Divine, will guide
Us safely, when blind Zealots step aside:
A Holy Life, with Heavenly Doctrine suits:
Our Saviour saies, We know Trees by their fruits.

Thrice Blessed they, and their reward not small That help to free us from the slavish thrall Of Sin and Sathan; Such Divines we own As Gods Embassadors to fetch us home: Of double honour, as most worthy, we Must them esteem; So let them ever be.

But Lord, of late, what lying spirit didst Thou send abroad, (to punish us amidst Our vile Transgressions) so that they who did Seem Gospel-teachers, (as if all bestrid

With

With Fiends and Furies) Did most highly rant,
And under colour of a Covenant,
Compos'd by wicked Craft, as in thy Name,
Whats'ere was Holy, boldly did prophane,
And pull down what was high, with great disdain,
That they o're all might domineer and raign?

And though for Peace and Truth they did pretend,
Yet they by War and Falthood, in the end,
(For Reformation lake, by meer delution)
Brought King and Church, and All unto Confusion:
Whilst Curfing Meros, to uphold the Sword,
They seem'd to fight the Battails of the Lord.

O horrid Villanie! thus to bespot
Resorm'd Religion with so foul a blot;
Such Pulpit-Drummers, such black seeming-saints,
And Canting Gypsies! How my spirit faints
To think upon! Let them avoided be;
From uch Blind-Guides, good Lord deliver me.

But as unfavory Salt, though some are meet. To be cast out, and troden under seet; Yet others still were Orthodox, and right, Aud now, as Gold thrice purished, shine bright.

And howfo'ere some did the Scriptures wrest. To their destruction, as of things the best Corruption is the worst; yet when all's try'd, Wisdome is of her Children justified. The Function Holy is, and they that do. It undertake, should all be holy too:

As call'd from Heaven, to be crucified Unto the World, and so self-mortisid.

Whilst he himself is found a Reprobate.

And though our Monasteries all are down,

A Priest of a retir'd Life we'd own,

And honour; As from Worldly cares remote,

To be more free, and piously devote:

This would in time reduce the world to know

What Honour we to God's true Servants owe.

But this, perhaps, unto thy tender Heir Unpleasant is, and seemeth too severe.

Things present take us most, and therefore he Ambitious is a Courtier how to be.

There is the Pomp and Pleasure, every day Clad in fost rayment; as a Gallant may He shine and be observ'd: For to the Court From many places People do refort: Who'd not affect to see, and to be seen, And Flourish where the Spring alwayes is green.

Yet pause a while, I thee my Friend exhort, Ere thou step o're the Threshold of the Court, What dost thou there expect? t'enrich thy mind By such examples as thou there may ft find, Or holy precepts? Doubtless, both there be. Yet if thou there improv'st, 'tis rare to see. In Courts, such strong Temptations do assail; And Policies o're Piety prevail: The Poet's Counsel did of old import,

Who would be Pious; Let him quit the Court.

But thou hast well deserved, and service done Unto thy King and Country, and art come, Expecting a reward; Be patient yet Whilst others, (less deserving) places get: The Race is not alwayes unto the swift, Theres something else, doth sometimes give the lift; A sprinkling of Court-holy-water thou Perhaps mayit get, to smooth thy wrinckled brow, And be not angry: For thou knowst the King Is wholly good and gracious. Yet each thing He can't discern; from others tongues he hears, And some are skilld in tickling Princes ears, And would Monopolize im wholly, left His Majesty should know who serv'd him best: And more than some, that too much do pretend, The Truth is strong, and will prevail in th' end.

Yet wilt thou venture on? Dost thither bring A Fortune, fith soon there, that very thing Admittance gains? Confider, and take heed, Dost thou with Favour in thy Fortune speed? 'T has been observed, that some who empty come,

Go full away, the full go empty home.

B 3

Some drive a subtle trade; beware of that, Pharoh's Lean Kyne did soon devour the fat. Therefore some say, and think ther's reason fort, First make thy Will, e're thou come neer the Court.

But dost thou in thy Prince's favour thrive?
Thou'st then be thought the happiest man alive,
If thou hold'st on; But in this Jewel rare,
Each Courtier covets how to have a share;
And this Rivality doth envy raise,
Which as with Briers, to obstruct thy wayes,
Intangle will thy seet, until thou canst
Not well proceed, retreat, or safely stands.
So sickle is Court-favour, and the place
Attended still with danger and disgrace:
That how much higher thou wast mounted e'rst
Thy fall's the greater, when the the wheel's reverst.

Which if thou fear, forbear thou then to chime. Keep thine own station, husband well thy time, And thy Estate. If thou canst bring thy mind To be content, thou wilt a Treasure find Still sull and slowing. Happy man is he, Can with his Country life delighted be; In what his Farm affords: A sober dyet, With a good stomach eaten, yeilds him quiet And pleasant rest; His body healthfull, strong, With life as cheerful as the dayes are long.

Thus with thy Family, thou as a Prince
Mayst live and die, secur'd with Innocence;
But if then dost affect abroad to fly,
Thou'lt find what thou admir'st, is vanity,
And brings withall, vexation of Spirit.
Who loves the World, let him it's cares inherit,
And Crosses too; he'l find that every thing
He dotes upon, will disappointment bring.

Beauty, with Youth and Health, are Things most gay; Which Sickness withers, Age takes quite away.

Strength hath its failings, and inticements too
These fair Endowments often do undo
Those whose ore prize em. Wit and learning high,
The Wise-man said, are full of vanity.

Money

Money, that as a Queen, the World doth sway
Doth scarce so often help, as't doth betray,
To danger, them that own it. Han't we seen,
The richest Men have soon'st Delinquents bin?
Yea rob'd and spoild, bysuch as did devise,
To break all Lawes; so they might tyrannize?

And when th' ambitious get preferments high Some looking on 'em with an evill eye. Complot to undermine 'em with difgrace So they 're thrown down, by such as seek their place.

On this worlds Stage, we several parts do play,
But the last Act doth all the rest display,
Which shews, that answer was not much amisse
That Solon gave to Crassum, which was this,
That no man here could happy said to be,
Though great and rich, till we his end do see.
Thus are we tost and tumbled upside down;
Ther's nothing Stable heere; no not the Crown.
To time and chance so much their doth belong,
The Battaile is not alwayes to the strong.
Such strange events do often interpose,
That crosse our expectations in the close.
God wils it so, that we in him should trust,
Whose wayes are often secret, alwayes just.

And as we do incertain all things find,
So they're unsatisfying to the mind.
The highest honours, pleasures, profits all,
Mixt with some Hony, have much more of Gall,
Which whosoever greedily shall tast,
I'th bottom hee'le find bitternesse at last.
Which sours and sickens, and cannot dispense,
A full contentment to Mans carnall sense,
Much lesse a Satisfaction can impart,
To his large Soul, and ever thirsty heart;
Which cannot acquiesce, but pine with grief
Because they cannot find a full relief
In any thing that's here below the Sun,
Where all must end that ever was begun.

Farewel deceitful World then; Since I see, Thy fond Idolaters deluded be. And what with appetite in supposition
They most adore, falls short in their fruition;
Like Sodom's Apples, seeming full and fair,
But touch'd, all foul, smoaky and noisome are.

Henceforth then, what my Judgement doth condemn, Let me in my defires as much contemn, And practife what is n'ere to be forgot, To use this World, as though I us'd it not; Placing my Treasure, where no Moth can fret, Nor Rust corrupt, nor Thieves away it get: And so preserve my Heart entire and free. That it may never more entangled be With this Worlds painted, guilefull, guilded shows, Nor look on Pleasure as it comes, but goes; And curbing my affections still beware. My senses do not my weak Soul ensnare, Which is immortall, and accompt must give Of what I do, whilft here on Earth I live. Which if confidered duely, may prevent Those follies, that I daily do lament: And that henceforth I may offend no more. Affift me Lord, thy Aid I do implore.

Great God and good, let me no longer stray
In this Worlds Labyrinth, shew me the way
How to return; with thy all-saving Grace.
Conduct me through this Lifes uncertain race;
And bring me home to Thee, where pleasures flow,
And Joys unmixt with grief, which none here know;
Where free from Sin and Sorrow, Envy, Want,
Thy blessed Saints do Hallelujahs Chant:
Lord, cleanse my sin-polluted Soul, and take
Me to thy Rest, for my Redeemer's sake.

Amen. Amen.

Amen.